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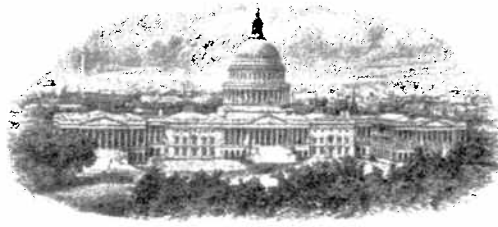
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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June 3, 2009

The Honorable William C. Fugate
Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a Member of the Florida delegation, I take comfort in your knowledge and understanding about the issues that Floridians encounter during natural disasters. I was pleased to work with you when you served as the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and I look forward to continuing our positive relationship. As such, I write to share my ongoing concerns regarding displaced residents still residing in temporary FEMA trailers and the lack of quality housing for future hurricanes.

As you are aware, top FEMA officials briefed Congressional staff a few weeks ago to discuss the efforts underway to address past issues, specifically housing. The hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 brought extreme devastation and destruction to millions of Floridians, but the low-income residents of South Florida were hit the hardest. Much to my dismay, many of these residents remain in FEMA travel trailers today. Therefore, it is essential that displaced individuals are provided safe emergency housing with long-term accommodations. Moreover, I urge you to ensure that efforts are directed towards increasing the availability of housing for large numbers of displaced persons in the event of a catastrophic disaster.

Further, I express strong opposition to recent reports about FEMA's deployment of staff from the Florida Long-Term Recovery Office (FLTRO) in Orlando to other areas of the country. As a disaster-prone state that has suffered from several devastating hurricanes in the last few years, FEMA has a responsibility to maintain a fully staffed and resourced office to assist in Florida's frequent relief and recovery efforts. I urge you to keep the existing FEMA FLTRO employees working within Florida and finally make this office permanent. It is critical that FEMA leverage the strong working relationships

cultivated between FEMA staff and state and local officials over the last three years, and fully utilize the emergency management expertise possessed by the current FLTRO staff.

Thank you for considering these very important issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance as you work to improve FEMA's ability to swiftly and effectively prepare for and respond to national disasters. With warm regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alcee L. Hastings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress